Introducing the DTH Telecast

74. SHRIK. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

WiU the Minister of INFORMATIONAND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) by when her Ministry is going to introduce DTH Telecast;

(b) the safeguards her Ministry is going to provide in respect of security and morality;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Government of India approved the DTH policy on 2.11.2000 and guidelines were issued on 15.3.2001.

(b) to (d) The salient features of the guidelines are as follows:—

i) Eligibility Criteria:

- Applicant Company to be an Indian Company registered under Indian Companies Act, 1956.
- Total foreign equity holding including FDI / NRI / OCB / FU in the applicant company not to exceed 49%.
- FDI component of the foreign equity not to exceed 20%.
- The quantum represented by the portion of the paid up equity share capital to the total issued equity capital of the Indian promoter company held or controlled by the foreign investors through FDI / NRI / OCB investment shall form part of the FDI limit of 20%.
- The applicant company must have Indian management Control with majority representatives on the board as well as the CEO of the company being a resident Indian.
- Broadcasting companies and / or cable network companies shall not be eligible to own more than 20% of the total equity of Applicant Company at any time during the licence period. Similarly, the applicant company not to have more than 20% equity share in a broadcasting and / or cable network company.

ii) ***Number of licensees:***

- There will be no restrictions on the total number of DTH licenses and these will be issued to any person who fulfils the necessary terms and conditions and subject to the security and technical clearances by the appropriate authorities of the Govt.

iii) ***Period of Licence:***

- Licence will be valid for a period of 10 years and is not transferable without prior approval of licensor.

iv) ***Basic conditions I obligations:***

The licence will be subject to terms and conditions contained in the agreement which *inter-alia,* provides that

- licensee shall adhere to programme and advertisement code,
- set up earth stations in India, give non-discriminatory access to various contents providers,
- carry channels of Prasar Bharati on most favourable terms,
- maintain recordings of programmes and advertisements for a period of 90 days.

v) ***Protection of Consumer Interest:***

- The licensee shall use the open Architecture (non-proprietary) Set Top Box, which will ensure technical compatibility and interoperability among different DTH service providers, and shall have such specifications as laid down by the Government from time to time.
- The Conditional Access System (CAS) to be used will be compatible with open architecture Set Top Box.
- The licensee shall ensure subscribers' interest through the subscriber management system, which is efficient, responsive and has accurate billing and collection system.

- The licensee shall adhere to regulation, which may be laid down in the interest of consumer such as pricing of bouquet(s) or tier(s) of channel etc.

vi) ***National Security Concerns:***

- Immediate termination of licence may be done if facility or service is used for anti-national activities.

* Access to all facilities to licensors or its authorized representative to be provided by licensee.

- Right of Government to take over me entire service in the interest of national security.

- Requirement that all foreign personnel deployed shall obtain security clearance.

vii) ***Procedure for application and grant of licences:***

- Application to be submitted to the Secretary, Ministry of I&B, in triplicate, in the prescribed proforma.

- On the basis of information furnished in the application form, if the applicant is found eligible for setting up of DTH platform in India, the application will be subjected to security clearance by the Ministry of Home Affairs and for clearance of satellite use by the Department of Space.

- After these clearances the applicant would be required to make non-refundable entry fee of Rs. 10 crore to Ministry of I&B and obtain from Wireless Planning and Coordination (WPC) Wing of Ministry of Communications, S ACFA clearance.

- After this clearance is obtained, the applicant would be required to furnish a bank guarantee for Rs. 40 crores and sign a licensing agreement with the Ministry of I&B as per prescribed proforma.

Within one month from the date of the signing the licensing agreement with the Ministry of I&B, the licensee shall apply to WPC for seeking Wireless Operational Licence for establishment, maintenance and operation of DTH platform.

- The licensee shall commission DTH within one year of SACFA clearance.

The licensee shall pay an annual fee equivalent to 10% of its gross revenue within one month of the end of every financial year to the government in addition to licence fee and royalty for the spectrum used.

- For any additional value — added service, separate licence to be obtained from competent authority.

Removing Gyan Darshan from DD's National Network

75. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: SHRIK. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of INFORMAnONAND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan has decided to drop Gyan Darshan on DD's National Network;

(b) if so, the reasons for such unilateral decision taken by Doordarshan;

(c) whether any representation from the Ministry of HRD has been received by Doordarshan for reconsideration of its decision to remove Gyan Darshan; and

(d) if so, the details of such representation and th» action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHREMATISUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Prasar Bharati has intimated that Doordarshan is discussing with the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development, the telecast arrangements of educational programmes.